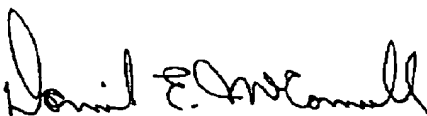


Remarks:

Applicant's undersigned attorney acknowledges with appreciation the indication from the Examiner that a claim is found allowable in this application. The amendments entered herein above are intended to emphasize the characteristics of the invention noted by the Examiner in the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter on Page 4 of the Official Action. That is, the sole independent claims remaining in the application recites that the second vacuum chuck comprises a plurality of retaining regions and that the retaining operations are stopped in order outward from the center during the bonding step. As recognized by the Examiner, these characteristics are absent from the prior art.

For the reasons given, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Daniel E. McConnell

Registration No. 20,360

(919) 510 4246

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